

## REPORT Q2FY2015

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of the Project	Caqueta: Maintaining and Restoring Connections within Andean and Amazonian Social and Natural Systems
Dates (start/finish) Agreement	30/07/2013 to 29/07/2017
Dates (start/finish)	01/01/2015 to 31/03/15
Prime Partner	Fondo Acción
Name of Program Manager	
E-mail	
Phone number	
Name of USAID AOR	
Name of alternate AOR	TBD
Mechanism Number (No. of Agreement)	AID 530-A-13-00005

### 2. OVERALL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This project seeks to restore forest continuity and sustainably manage existing forest remnants by contributing to the consolidation of a bio-cultural corridor in the Andean-Amazonian Piedmont and to the configuration of a reduced deforestation belt in the Caquetá municipality of Solano, gateway to the Amazonian lowlands. We propose developing strategies that include generating the enabling conditions that guarantee the project's success by creating greater access to relevant information and developing conservation portfolios and landscape transformation strategies, which in turn will guide the development of participatory sustainable management models and conservation benefit mechanisms for indigenous and small farmer populations. Synergistically, the project will support key policy opportunities at the local, state, and national levels and provide the necessary capacity building for communities, local organizations, governmental authorities and project partners among other stakeholders. This goal will be achieved through a detailed design of activities tailored for two selected landscapes (piedmont and lowlands), taking into account the cultural diversity of the two priority areas and ensuring a gender perspective throughout the project. The project will refine strategies, strengthen partnerships and facilitate policy frameworks for the future implementation of its successful models in the area of highest deforestation separating the two prioritized ecosystems, contributing to restoring continuity between Andean and Amazonian social and natural systems. The project will focus on two key areas: the Andean-Amazonian Piedmont bio-cultural corridor comprised of the Alto Fragua Indi Wasi National Park (Caquetá state) and the Churumbelos National Park (Cauca State) and their area of influence, where Inga indigenous communities and neighboring small farmers will be prioritized; and the Uitoto and Coreguaje territories and neighboring small farms

located in Caquetá's municipality of Solano, a critical transition area to the Amazonian lowlands. The project will focus on four key components: Enabling conditions, Landscape transformation through sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, Local policy transformation and Capacity building.

### **3. STRATEGY OVERVIEW**

#### **3.1. Component 1 (C1). Selected Landscapes Managed Sustainably**

During Q2FY2015, the Ecosystem Analysis (CL-1-003) was carried out and finished both for the departmental and landscape levels (Fragua – Churumbelos). Fine tuning adjustments are still to be performed, together with a series of dissemination sessions with key stakeholders. The main products obtained are landcover maps, ecosystem services maps, priority conservation maps, integrated connectivity maps, conservation-connectivity model maps and other technical written documents. (For details see annex D.1)

As part of activity CL-1-008, five new Village Community Agreements for the Transformation of the Fragua-Churumbelos Landscape Corridor were prepared and signed, containing commitments about conservation of water springs, incorporation of productive sustainable practices and technologies, and promotion of local environmental awareness, among others (For details see annex D.2). These agreements are the basis for two Municipal Transformation Plans to be signed during Q4FY2015. As part of activity CL-1-012, 5 new villages were diagnosed and characterized and 85 new property level LMPs (covering an area of 3.256.75 Ha) were elaborated (For details See annex D.2). Likewise, 7 Village Landscape Transformation Projects (For detail See Annex D.3) including 77 families were designed. Such projects are intended, among others, to reduce vulnerability to climate change, ensure food security under changing climatic conditions and connect disrupted landscapes. Main sustainable natural resources schemes derived from these projects are related with food security, agroforestry and silvopastoral arrangements, watershed protection, reforestation and restoration of degraded areas, vegetable production and establishing of productive trails, among others. Procurements responding to such projects were initiated. As for Inga Indigenous Reserves (Yurayaco, San Miguel and Brisas), LMPs activities continued: social cartography was completed as input for reserve's zoning, life plan were revised, and preliminary reserve's management actions were drawn.

During Q2FY2015, actions related with prioritized value chains continued. A workshop about Kakay harvesting and post-harvesting practices was conducted to prepare producers. Likewise, based on a recent inventory, 51.5kg of Kakay were collected by producers and purchased by Kahai S.A.S. Such purchase, although small, was made by Kahai to generate confidence among farmers who had never marketed the nut. Depending on the nut quality, average purchase price was COP 2000/kilogram. Strengthening activities for the Small Farmer Market of Belén were also conducted, namely the design of improvement actions for vegetable production and a relationship-building meeting held between consumer and farmers.

As for Solano, during Q2 a local program facilitator and two local supporting staff were hired. The final site-specific intervention strategy was presented to ASOJUNTAS and initiation of activities were planned together with community-based focal point (CAPAS). As part of such initiation activities, local promoters from CAPAS were selected and introduced to their tasks, among which the completion of a detailed baseline of small farmers is underlined (CL-1-011). Likewise, together with ASOJUNTAS, three Campesino village nucleus (Nucleos Campesinos) were prioritized for in-situ intervention (Hericha, Mononguete and Las Mercedes) (CL-1-020). During Q2FY2015, CL continued gaining consensus and understanding with local actors about the program's scope and objectives.

As part of activities CL-1-014 and CL-1-024, CL prepared three local monitoring plans for the prioritized topics (water resources, birds and amphibians). Based on such plans, training for monitors from Tierra Viva and Fundiama Foundation were arranged and started, particularly on water quality and aquatic macroinvertebrates; monitoring samples' examination was arranged with UA. Current monitoring activities are mainly aimed at determining the effectiveness of proposed land transformation strategies at connecting landscapes and restoring ecosystems.

### **3.2. Component 2 (C2). Key Elements of Natural Resources Governance**

As part of activity CL-2-013, the first Technical Tandachiridu – PNNAFIW Committee of 2015 was held. Such meeting served to validate 2015 shared action plan and to confirm the allocation of twenty million colombian pesos from PNNAFIW to support it. Additionally, it was agreed to convene a steering committee between the Amazon Natural National Park Directorate and the indigenous authorities to sign a long-term agreement, which will officially reestablish mutual relationship and set the understanding to reshape Alto Fragua Indi Wasi National Natural Park co-management strategy.

During Q2, and as part of activity CL-2-016, CL continued participating in the Transitional Committee for Caqueta's Gender policy in order to reinforce to all members the importance of including conservation and natural resource management matters into regional gender analysis and policy making. Likewise, in order to incorporate a gender approach into Belén de los Andaquies environmental local policies, CL initiated common work (through a jointly built strategy) with the Council for Life and Water from Belén (CLWB), entity responsible for coordinating and promoting environmental policies in the municipality.

Capacity building actions were also tackled during Q2FY2015. In total, 17 capacity building sessions were carried out (CL-2-018 / CL-2019), covering 335 community members and 71 staff from local authorities, research centers, key civil society organization and network (47% women and 53% men). Capacity building workshops addressed the following themes: 1) Land Management Planning, 2) Sustainable Natural Resource Management schemes design, 3) Good Cattle Ranching Practices, 4) Kakay harvesting and post-harvesting practices and Water quality monitoring. For capacity building details see Annex D.4. In line with capacity building activities, and after a diagnosis process, two Organizational Strengthening Plans were formulated for Tierra Viva Foundation and the Children's

Audiovisual School Association (Asociación Escuela Audiovisual Infantil). Such plans are detailed strategies to improve critical capacities in both organization. In the case of Tierra Viva, critical capacities to be strengthened are a) Project design and management, b) GIS tools, c) Local monitoring and research, and d) Governance. For the case of the Children's Audiovisual School Association critical capacities to be strengthened are: a) Strategic communication, b) Social Cartography, and c) Governance. In both cases, main strengthening actions will be capacity building and the provision of key equipment.

Q2FY2015 was a very active quarter in relation with activity CL-2-022. During the period reported, CL continued coordinating operational and logistical activities for the Workshop on Sustainable Cattle Ranching to be held on April 2015 (jointly arranged and prepared with EII and C&G). Additionally, through new field visits and local working sessions with institutions, local authorities and cattle ranchers in Caqueta, CL finished the regional characterization and diagnosis of cattle ranching schemes intended to serve as main discussion input during the workshop (For details see Annex D.5). Based on the results of the workshop, CL will draw a policy advocacy route to tackle some of the challenges resultant from the dialogue.

As for activity CL-2-025, CL was forced to postpone (due to CODIC's request) the first module for the development of a Food Sovereignty for Indigenous people policy guideline initially scheduled for March 2015. Such module will occur during Q3FY2015. During Q2, CL was successful in bringing together food sovereignty program's effort with Caquetá's CANUTSA program (Programa departamental Caquetá Nutrido y Saludable). Joint actions are aimed at including food safety and sovereignty guidelines for the indigenous people in the CANUTSA program, which currently does not have a differential approach.

CL did not have explicit progress on activities CL-2-023, CL-2-010 and CL-2-015.

### **3.3. Component 3 (C3). PES and other Economic Incentive Programs**

CL is not carrying out activities related with EPIC's component 3 during FY2015.

### **3.4. Cross-cutting Themes**

#### **3.4.1. Increase Gender Awareness and Gender-related Program Outcomes**

During Q2, CL continued participating in the Transitional Committee for Caquetá's Gender policy in order to reinforce to all members the importance of including conservation and natural resource management matters into regional gender analysis and policy making. Likewise, in order to incorporate a gender approach into Belén de los Andaquíes environmental local policies, CL initiated common work (through a jointly built strategy) with the Council for Life and Water from Belén (CLWB), entity responsible for coordinating and promoting environmental policies in the

municipality. The common strategy drawn is based on the following critical actions. : 1) Development of capacities about gender and conservation approach, 2) Understanding of gender roles on biodiversity conservation, 3) Promotion of policy advocacy actions and dialogues.

### **3.4.2. Climate Change**

Although there were not direct/explicit actions to contribute to climate change, during the period reported, the main contribution to tackle climate change impacts is related with the design and implementation of biocultural corridors through Fragua – Churumbelos geography, which during the period was extended to 5 new villages. (See annex D.2). In 7 of all villages where corridors are so far proposed, CL designed 77 property-specific projects intended, among others, to reduce vulnerability to climate change and ensure food security under changing climatic conditions. Property-specific projects designed deal with agroforestry and silvopastoral arrangements, watershed protection, reforestation and restoration of degraded areas, vegetable production and establishing of productive trails.

### **3.5. Networking and Synergy**

CL continued existent synergies with C&G, particularly in relation with the workshop on Cattle Ranching in Caquetá and the fine tuning of local activities in San José de Fragua. Likewise, in order to initiate complementary childhood related activities in Solano, CL -together with FA Childhood Program Coordinator- brought forward an alliance with UA to design, prepare and develop a course on “Care and Education for early infants” in Solano. Efforts to integrate the childhood work in Solano emerged as an opportunity to use education as a vehicle to attain program’s objectives in the long term, particularly in respect with local governance development. Likewise, since *human wellbeing* is one of the main LERD model’s pillars, FA regarded complementary actions in childhood as a key milestone to set the ground.

During the period reported, CL also made networking work with Red Caqueta Paz to combine efforts and programs’ personnel to develop a common detailed baseline for small farmer in Solano. As for Fragua-Churumbelos geography, CL was successful in bringing to ground joint actions with Caquetá’s Government to include a differential approach into CANUTSA program. Likewise, a collaboration agreement was signed with the mayor’s office of San José del Fragua in order to bring together efforts to consolidate Connected Landscapes impacts in the municipality.

### **3.6. Impact of Leveraged Resources**

After a few month of coordination, specific economic resources from FONDO ACCION Childhood Program were leveraged to widen Solano’s intervention scope. Such resources will fund complementary

actions related with *Early Infants Wellbeing*. A definitive leveraged amount will be certified in the short term once Solano's childhood activities are launched. During the period reported, CL also explored other leveraged alternatives. 1) A small project for the production of in-situ plant material and environmental education in Solano was written and presented to the German Embassy in Bogotá, A response is still pending to be received. 2) On behalf of CL, ACT explored leverage resources opportunities with Moore Foundation to strengthen participatory monitoring. During coming months viability is defined. 3) A meeting was held with DPS' Program Against Illicit Crops to explore collaboration options in Solano. The absence of such program in the municipality limited common work.

### **3.7. M&E**

During Q2, CL progressed on 5 concrete PMP indicators, namely: DO4-001, FON-005, FON-002, FON-006 and FON-011. During the period reported, under indicator DO4-001 3256.75ha in areas of natural resource importance were incorporated under improved management, under indicator FON-005 335 persons were trained, under indicator FON-002 2 Ecosystem Analysis were elaborated, under indicator FON-006 85 property level LMP were elaborated, under indicator FON-011 71 staff members were trained. For detail refer to annex B and MONITOR.

During Q2, the PMP did not have any modification. Indicator targets, definitions, unit of measure, etc., remain the same.

## **4. ANNEXES**

Annex A – List of Acronyms

Annex B – M&E

Annex C – Activity Description

Annex D1– Ecosystem Analysis

AnnexD2 – Summary Landscape Transformation Actions

AnnexD3 – Summary Village Level Transformation Projects

AnnexD3a – Los Aletones Village Project

AnnexD3b – Los Aletones Village Project's Budget.

AnnexD4 – Capacity Building Summary

AnnexD5 – Documents Sustainable Cattle Ranching Workshop.



**Environment Peace Initiative for  
Colombia (EPIC)**